

Implications of an RSA Member Library Withdrawing OCLC Membership: A Guide

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If a library is considering withdrawing from membership of OCLC there are several implications which should be considered before a decision is made.

- No visibility for the library's holdings in OCLC WorldCat, the largest single database of library holdings worldwide.
- No access to OCLC WorldShare ILL, the only interlibrary loan mechanism that searches library holdings at state, national, and international levels from a single interface.
- The non-OCLC member will be required to pay a 10% higher RSA membership fee to account for RSA staff providing additional cataloging support, particularly when no existing bibliographic record is available in WorkFlows that matches the item that needs to be cataloged. RSA cataloging staff will search OCLC WorldCat for a bibliographic record to catalog the item, create or edit the OCLC record if necessary, and import it into WorkFlows on behalf of the non-OCLC member.
- The non-OCLC member's database holdings cannot be exported in MARC format. If the library withdraws its RSA membership, their items may be exported as a shelflist spreadsheet. Shelflists contain title, author, and ISBN, and not be able to populate a standalone system with bibliographic records.
- The library's holdings that are attached to OCLC records in WorkFlows cannot be exported and used in third-party products, such (but not limited to) as Collection HQ, or Titlewave. This may become problematic as RAILS or RSA coordinates group purchases of third-party products for member libraries.

Questions and concerns about OCLC membership should be shared with Kendal Orrison, RSA Executive Director, at kendal.orrison@railslibraries.org or 1-866-940-4083.